

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An elastomeric article comprising:  
an elastomeric layer having a skin-contacting elastomeric surface; and  
a coating composition provided directly on substantially the entire skin-contacting elastomeric surface of said elastomeric layer; said coating composition being in a dry state and comprising:

- a) at least one polyhydric alcohol moisturizer; and
- b) at least one alphahydroxy lactone;

wherein said composition is water-soluble and hydratable upon contact with skin.

19. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein the elastomer is composed of natural rubber.

20. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein the elastomer is composed of synthetic rubber.

21. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 20 wherein the synthetic rubber is nitrile rubber.

22. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 20 wherein the synthetic rubber is polyisoprene.

23. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein said article is an examination glove.

24. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein said article is a surgeon's glove.

25. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein said polyhydric alcohol moisturizer comprises pantothenol in provitamin B form.

26. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein said alphahydroxy lactone is gluconolactone.

27. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 26 wherein said gluconolactone is D-glucono-1,5-lactone.

28. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein said polyhydric alcohol moisturizer comprises pantothenol in combination with at least one of glycerin and sorbitol.

29. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein said coating composition further comprises a water-soluble film-forming polymer.

30. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 29 wherein said water-soluble film-forming polymer comprises chitosan.

31. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 further comprising a hydration promoter.

32. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 28 further comprising a plasticizer.

33. (Original) The elastomeric article according to claim 18 wherein said coating composition comprises:

- a) water-soluble polyhydric alcohol moisturizer present in an amount up to about 3.00% by weight of the total composition; and
- b) alphahydroxy lactone present in an amount ranging from about 0.10% to about 3.00% by weight of the total composition.

34. (Currently Amended) An examination glove comprising:  
an elastomeric layer having a skin-contacting elastomeric surface; and  
a coating composition provided directly on substantially the entire skin-contacting elastomeric surface of said elastomeric layer; said coating composition being in a dry state and comprising:

- a) at least one polyhydric alcohol moisturizer; and
- b) at least one alphahydroxy lactone;

wherein said composition is water-soluble and hydratable upon contact with skin.

35. (Currently Amended) A surgeon's glove comprising:  
an elastomeric layer having a skin-contacting elastomeric surface; and  
a coating composition provided directly on substantially the entire skin-contacting elastomeric surface of said elastomeric layer; said coating composition being in a dry state and comprising:

- a) at least one polyhydric alcohol moisturizer; and
- b) at least one alphahydroxy lactone;

wherein said composition is water-soluble and hydratable upon contact with skin.

36. (Original) The surgeon's glove according to claim 35, wherein said coating composition further comprises chitosan.

37 - 50. (Cancelled)